

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128763

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: CALL OF GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS, AT HIS REQUEST, VISITED DEPTOFF FOR HALF HOUR GENERAL DISCUSSION MAY 31. ALEXANDRAKIS BEGAN MEETING BY NOTING GREEK CONCERNS OVER RECENT RUMORS THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS MIGHT ISSUE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (UDI). ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT WHATEVER THE ATTITUDE OF DENKTASH AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS MIGHT BE UDI WOULD NOT BE IN TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST, AS LATTER PREFERRED DE FACTO INDEPENDENCE WHICH CURRENTLY EXISTED. DEPTOFF CONCURRED WITH ALEXANDRAKIS' ASSESSMENT THAT DESPITE EARLIER RUMORS, DANGER HAD SOMEWHAT ABATED IN RECENT DAYS.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS THEN PROBED FOR INDICATION OF U.S. PLANS TO
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ENCOURAGE PROGRESS ON CYPRUS IN PERIOD FOLLOWING JUNE 5 TURKISH ELECTIONS, AND FOR OUR CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS THERE. DEPTOFF ANSWERED THAT WHILE WE WERE CONSIDERING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, WE HAD NOT MADE ANY FINAL PLANS, AND THAT IN ANY CASE MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON OUTCOME OF TURKISH ELECTIONS. ADMINISTRATION HAD NO FEELING EITHER DEMIREL OR ECEVIT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FROM U.S.

POINT OF VIEW, BUT STRONGLY HOPED THAT EITHER JP OR RPP
WOULD WIN ENOUGH SEATS TO FORM A WORKABLE GOVERNMENT.

DEPTOFF SAID WE STILL EXPECT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS, AND VIEWED
VIENNA TALKS SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVELY THAN DID GOVERNMENT
OF GREECE. WE HAD HOPED THAT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WOULD BE
TABLED BY EACH SIDE AT VIENNA, AND THEY WERE. WE EXPECTED
THAT THEY WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER SIDE, AND SO
WERE NEITHER SURPRISED NOR DISAPPOINTED WHEN THAT PROVED TO
BE THE CASE. PROPOSALS FORM STARTING POINTS WHICH CAN
NOW BE NEGOTIATED.

3. ON TURKISH ECONOMY, DEPTOFF NOTED THAT TURKEY HAD SER-
IOUS FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEMS, BUT THAT
MOST WESTERN BANKS APPEARED WILLING TO MAINTAIN THEIR EX-
ISTING CREDIT EXPOSURE IN TURKEY.

TURKS STILL

HAD SOME SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL CREDIT (OECD CONSORTIUM,
IMF), PLUS OPPORTUNITY TO REPROGRAM INTERNAL ECONOMIC POLI-
CIES WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED TO PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.

4. IN REPLY TO DEPTOFF'S INQUIRY, ALEXANDRAKIS NOTED GOG
SATISFACTION WITH RECENTLY CONCLUDED GREEK-ITALIAN CONTIN-
ENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT, NOTING THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL
PRECEDENT IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKS. CHRISTOPHER

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